

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 6th February 2023, at the Llangennech Community Centre.

PRESENT: Councillors: I M Williams (Chair)
G Thomas, M I Slader, A J Parry,
G R Jones, H J Davies, N Lloyd,
L M Morgan, L D J Armishaw,
J Leeuwerke

APOLOGIES: Councillors: J A Seward, I Griffiths

1. **Declaration of Interests**

There were none.

2. **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th January 2023**

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor M I Slader that the Minutes be accepted.

It was so RESOLVED.

i) **Ben Kathrens – County Council**

The Chair remarked that the presentation by Ben Kathrens was very productive and beneficial.

The Surveyor commented that there is a problem with flooding that might get worse. The issue with the creation of flood storage areas is not promising since any development with this proposal would require cooperation from the landowner. The County does not have the power to acquire land for such a proposal.

ii) **Youth Club**

This commenced last Friday and some 8 members attended. Councillor M I Slader raised the issue of lack of storage for any equipment that could be bought for use by Youth Club members.

Councillor Slader informed members that she had bought a pool table personally. She also raised the issue of lack of space to play games and also that there is no Broadband/WIFI in the Pavilion. She has made enquiries with regard to the "Smarty System". This is a data only plan and costs range from £9 per month for 15GB to £20 per month for unlimited use. This system is more for individual use than group use.

The Clerk informed members that currently at the Bryn Hall Broadband/WIFI costs the Council £48.95 per month.

Councillor M I Slader will make further enquiries regarding this issue. She also asked whether tables/chairs can be provided.

The Clerk believed that some tables and chairs are stored in the alcoves of the Pavilion. These are used by the Cricket Club in the summer.

Councillor N Lloyd proposed to donate £300 from her outstanding Chair allowance to cover the cost of the purchase of the Pool Table.

This was agreed and Councillor M I Slader will submit an account for reimbursement of the money personally expended by her.

iii) **Warm Hubs**

This service has now finished but Councillor M I Slader informed members that she hopes to set up a craft type weekly session at the Centre. She asked that the hire fee be waived until the group is firmly established.

This was agreed.

Councillor Slader also is hopeful that the luncheon club can be restarted but there are problems with getting volunteers to run it and also to source the food to provide to attendees.

iv) **Defibrillators**

The Clerk informed members that Nicholas Richards – Ozzati is unable to attend the March meeting of the Council to make a presentation and enter into discussions regarding the service. He has not provided the Clerk with specifications for a cabinet for the Council to purchase.

Councillor G R Jones informed members that the Bryn Hall Committee will take responsibility for the defibrillator located at this building.

Councillor L M Morgan informed members that she has had discussions with Alun James the Centre Caretaker and he has agreed to the guardianship responsibility for the defibrillator located at the Centre. She will also provide contact details to the Clerk of the person she has been dealing with.

Councillor M I Slader is the guardian for the defibrillator located outside the Chemist.

Members were informed that Mr Ben Golding is the guardian for the defibrillator outside the Pavilion.

There is a defibrillator at the Caravan site at Llwynifan and Councillor H J Davies is responsible for that.

All these defibrillators have been registered with the Ambulance Service.

Details of the defibrillator located at the Bryn Breakfast Bar is unclear.

v) **“E” Mail from Llangennech School**

The Clerk reported on his further discussions with Gemma Davies, Senior Teacher, and he was informed that there are, in fact, some three phases to the project.

The children have completed the first phase which was to travel through the village, take pictures and making notes etc. on various significant features. The second phase, which they are at present, is looking at the Morlais Colliery photographs and plans and writing up observations etc.

The third phase will be again to travel through the village and taking further photographs etc.

Any member of the Council is welcome to visit and talk to the children on the project. This would include discussions and being recorded on video.

After due discussions it was agreed that Councillor G Thomas and I M Williams, Chair, visit the School probably after half term. The Clerk will make arrangements with Gemma Davies, Senior Teacher, regarding a suitable time and date.

vi) **Removal of Trees at Aber Llchwyr**

Councillor G R Jones reported on his recent enquiries and stated that land ownership is unclear. He contacted Network Rail without response.

Councillor Jones will make further enquiries and report back.

vii) **Section 106 Money**

Councillor G Thomas was of the view that there was still money remaining from the Bryn Uchaf development and she reported on it to the Council some 18 months ago. She referred to conversations with Ian Llewellyn and Sarah Morris at the County.

Councillor G R Jones is to follow up on this.

4. **Surveyor's Report**

- i) Pavilion grill gate and side panel. This is about to be fixed.
- ii) Recreation Ground – subsidence. This work has been completed and another small section suffered some subsidence which has now been backfilled.
- iii) Goal Posts - Cae Pownd. The safety report highlighted and gave an adverse comment on the condition of this item and, in particular, the Cross bar is seriously corroded. The Surveyor will further look into the matter and perhaps a replacement similar to that being planned by the LBSA in the recreation ground should be considered.
- iv) Centre redecoration. The main hall will be redecorated and there are issues with the work top and tiles in the kitchen. The Surveyor will report back in the next Council meeting on costings etc.
- v) Bridge Inn – Sale of land. There are favourable signs coming from the Council Solicitor that there could be movement on the matter.

5. **County Councillor Report**

Councillor G R Jones reported:-

- i) He did not attend any of the budget consultation exercises carried out.
- ii) He recently attended a Bryn Hall Committee meeting and a request was made to update the Council website on such matters as details of the Council members. A request was also made on including events on the website.
- iii) Recycling issues at the County Council. Councillor Jones reported on this and the method to contact the County regarding such issues.
- iv) Councillor Jones commented on problems regarding entrance to the Bryn Park especially from the Bryn Morlais housing site.

The Surveyor will look at this including possible problems from horse riding along the footpath.

- v) Councillor L Armishaw reported on the budget consultation exercise. The County Council has to find cuts of some £9.3 million with a total cut of £23 million over the next 3 years.

Councillor G Thomas was of the view that the education budget has been protected. There has been no final decision to date.

The County Council knows that it will need to bridge a deficit in its budget of £20 million in 2023/24.

Councillor L Armishaw commented on issues with the underpass which are longstanding. Councillor G R Jones will take up these issues at the County.

6. **Council Precept for 2023/24**

The Clerk had prepared a financial statement which has previously been circulated to members setting out the likely outcome for 2022/23 and estimates for 2023/24 based on increasing the precept per property by 5% for 2023/24.

The Estimates for 2023/24 and probable for 2022/23 are detailed as follows:-

Probable 2022/23

There is likely to be a surplus of income over expenditure of £8698 leaving a total cash balance of £152888 at the 31st March 2023. This would be analysed as follows:

	£
General Fund	100458
Community Centre Capital Fund	45000
Youth Club	6817
Repair and Renewal Fund	503
DR. TR Davies Fund	110

Estimates 2023/24

This includes the following

- i) Costs other than energy have been increased in general by 5%, wages by 6%, salaries by 3% and energy costs have been contracted at current prices until 2024.
- ii) The 2023/24 budget includes additional expenditure on:-

	£
Cemetery	
Plinth in Ashes area	2000
Community Centre	
Redecoration	3000
Environment	
Japanese Knotweed Removal	500
Bulb Planting	1000
Parks	
New Signage	2500
Election Costs for 2022	<u>7628</u>
	<u>16628</u>

- iii) There is a slight budget surplus forecast for 2023/24 of £4070. The General Balance will be £104528 compared to the recommended level of approximately £65000.
- iv) The Precept per property has been increased by 5% from £130.50 to £137.03. The actual precept sum has been increased by 4.1% because there has been a slight reduction in the Band D Equivalent to 1982.22 for 2023/24 compared to 2000.25 in 2022/23.
- v) The Clerk commented on two further matters.

Firstly the gas meter at the Community Centre appears to be faulty and under reads actual consumption. This has been the case for the last two years or so.

The Clerk has attempted to estimate likely consumption and this is included in the Estimates Document for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Secondly a quotation for replacing the boiler pumps at the Community Centre has been received after completion of the estimates. The quotation is £2659.39 plus VAT and this has not been taken account of in the Estimates Document.

After due discussion it was proposed by Councillor N Lloyd and seconded by Councillor I M Williams, Chair, that the precept per property be increased by 5%. This would result in a Precept on the Billing Authority of £271,624 for 2023/24.

It was so RESOLVED.

7. Risk Assessment Document

The Clerk had prepared a risk assessment document which had previously been circulated to members.

It is a requirement that the Council carries out an assessment of risks and take appropriate steps to manage risks.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED to accept the document and its content as presented.

8. City and County of Swansea – Flower Baskets Scheme

A quotation has been received from the City and County of Swansea to supply and maintain flower baskets and troughs for 2023.

The quotation price is £2456.50 including VAT.

This compares to a cost of £2354 including VAT for 2022.

After due discussion it was agreed to accept the quotation.

9. **One Voice Wales – Training Programme**

A schedule of dates for different courses has been received for February and March 2023. The cost of the training is £35 per individual.

Councillors who wish to be enrolled should contact the Clerk.

10. **Community Health Councils**

In April of 2023 the CHC's will be replaced by Llais your voice in health and social care (Citizens Voice Body).

Anyone wishing to comment should go to the CHC Wales website.

11. **Planning Applications**

It was RESOLVED not to object to the following applications:

12 Station Road - rear extension.

Blaen Hiraeth Farm - Discharge of conditions 10, 11 and 12 in respect of Solar panel project.